

# *Discussions at ALBA Summit focus on regional situation*

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Havana, December 14 (RHC)-- An analysis of the regional situation and the role of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People's Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) are the focus of debates during Saturday's summit in Havana.

Leaders and political representatives gathered in the Cuban capital will also celebrate the 15th anniversary of the regional organization -- founded on December 14, 2004 by the leaders of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, and the Bolivarian Revolution, Hugo Chávez.

Solidarity, justice and cooperation are the principles defended by ALBA-TCP, which emerged as an alternative to the hegemony of capital that threatened to expand throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Since its creation, ALBA has promoted fair trade among peoples, to the detriment of neoliberal formulas.

The eradication of illiteracy through the Cuban method "Yo, Sí Puedo," and the free eye surgeries with "Operacion Milagro" -- Operation Miracle -- are part of the achievements of the regional organization.

This 17th Summit takes place one month after the coup d'état in Bolivia against President Evo Morales, anti-neoliberal popular mobilizations in Chile and Colombia, and increased hostility of the United States against Cuba.

ALBA-TCP is made up of Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Saint Lucia, whose executive secretary is former Bolivian Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca.

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